

# FATHOM THIS!

The monthly newsletter from  
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

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## **SAGA OF THE *PRINCESS TAIPING***

*Thursday, August 5, 8:00pm (open seating begins 7:30pm) in the Maritime Museum lobby, 900 Beach Street, at Polk. Suggested donation: \$5. All proceeds benefit San Francisco Maritime National Park Association youth boatbuilding programs. Information: <http://www.maritime.org>, then go to "calendar," or call 415-561-6662, ext. 33.*

On April 25th, 2009, the *Princess Taiping*, a replica Ming Dynasty junk sank off the coast of Taiwan after being hit by a freighter which fled the scene. The traditionally-made boat was just a day shy of completing a 10-month voyage across the Pacific and back. This voyage was an attempt to prove that 600 years ago China's great admiral and explorer, Zheng He, could have sailed to North America. All 11 crew members survived the ordeal. Captain Nelson Liu and crew member Angela Chao will be here to present photographs and accounts of their incredible voyage.

## **FLOATING FILMS: JAWS**

*Thursday, August 19, 8:00pm (open seating begins 7:30pm), aboard ferryboat Eureka, Hyde Street Pier. Suggested donation: \$5. All proceeds benefit San Francisco Maritime National Park Association preservation and education programs. Information: <http://www.maritime.org>, then go to "calendar," or call 415-561-6662, ext. 33.*

Board the 1890-built steam ferryboat *Eureka* to view classic films. This summer's series concludes with *Jaws*. Refreshments will be for sale.

## **C.A. THAYER UPDATE**

Aboard the *C.A. Thayer*, progress continues with rebuilding the forward bulkhead of the Main House. The first two beams have been installed and "drifted down." The fasteners, known as drifts, are 1" diameter galvanized steel rod ranging in length from 30 " to 40 ". Because of the shape of the house, it is necessary to fit the fourth, or upper most beam before the third beam. This upper most beam has "standing bevels," meaning that it is larger on its back or aft face than it is on its forward face. Some of the side timbers, original to 1895, will need to be cut back to allow installation of the forward bulkhead upper timbers. They will be carefully measured, documented, and patterned before any demolition takes place, and the timbers will be saved for reference. *Thayer* Shipwright Jeff Morris expects to have the forward bulkhead completed by the end of August.

You are welcome to walk aboard the *Thayer* and see her restoration in progress. Vessel admission fees apply.

## **MEET NEW PARK STAFF**

Valsala Manaloor joined the park as the new administrative assistant for cultural resources. She began her career with after graduating with a degree in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University (for her senior project she studied the behavior of silvered leaf monkeys in Malaysia, where she's from). She worked for five years with California State Parks, then received at Master's in Geography from Oregon State University, and while studying, worked with Oregon State Parks. For the past two years, Valsala worked in the National Park Service at our neighboring Golden Gate National Recreation Area in the Visitor and Resource Protection Division. Valsala enjoys the outdoors - hiking, biking and walking her two dogs. She is excited to be here. She has sailed aboard the scow schooner *Alma* and is looking forward to further exploring maritime history and the riches of the Maritime Library.

While on Hyde Street Pier and in Victorian Park, you may come across young people working during their summer break from school. We welcome members of the Youth Conservation Corps - Amala DeMarchis (Corps Leader), Judy Kuang, and Kyle Martin. Judy is working with the park's gardener, and Kyle with the maintenance crew, currently painting the pilot houses of the historic ferry *Eureka*. Their work in helping maintain the historic vessels and the park's garden is much appreciated by visitors and park staff!

## **CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT: AQUATIC PARK**

Hot off the press, the *Cultural Landscape Report: Aquatic Park 2010* provides information on the history and landscape development of the Aquatic Park Historic District, and recommendations for preservation and rehabilitation of significant landscape features. We believe this report will help continue to guide long term stewardship of this remarkable resource. A limited number of hard copies and CDs are available by contacting Valsala Manaloor at 415-561-7019 or email: [valsala\\_manaloor@nps.gov](mailto:valsala_manaloor@nps.gov). The document will also be uploaded on the park website

later this summer (Currently the NPS Washington, DC office is making changes and improvements to all National Park websites. Fathom This! will keep you informed when the NPS website work is completed and the document uploaded).

## LINKS

<http://www.nps.gov/safr/> San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

<http://www.maritime.org> San Francisco Maritime National Park Association, the park's nonprofit member-supported cooperating association.

<http://www.maritimelibraryfriends.org> San Francisco Maritime Library Friends, the park library's nonprofit member-supported cooperating association.

<http://www.museum.nps.gov/safr/page.htm> Park museum catalog records.

<http://www.library.nps.gov/> The Maritime Library's online catalog.

<http://www.hydestreetlivinghistory.org> The park Living History Program's volunteer created and managed website.

<http://www.corsair-viking.org> The San Francisco Sea Scouts, the park's neighboring partner in Aquatic Park.